

HOLMAC MEETING NOTES

June 15, 2010

5:30pm – 7:00pm

Mt. Helena Parking Lot / Powerline Unit Logging Project – Site Visit

Attendees:

Brag Langsather

Mary Arnold

Corey Baker

John Kotson

Dawn North

Lois Olsen

Topics Discussed:

1) Abandoned mining tunnels located on Davis Gulch near Deford Trail Access are to be permanently closed by Montana Dept. of Environmental Quality at Brad's request.

2) the HOLMAC group was informed of an upcoming volunteer firewood splitting effort that will occur at the Winnie Water Tank or Bompert Hill site on the 18th, 19th and 27th of this month.

3). Briefly discussed the fact that the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department would not accept an application for the Mount Helena parking lot for the FY 2011 Grant Cycle due to the fact that information regarding the project had not been made available to department biologists by the May 15, 2010 deadline and the project had not been made available to the general public via a newspaper publication by the May 29th deadline. Short-term maintenance items related to the parking lot access road shoulders and the lack of effective parking lot drainage must be addressed to maintain the current functionality level of the parking lot. Parks staff will work with the city Engineering Department to finalize design prior to the aforementioned spring 2011 deadlines.

4.) The group was informed of the fact that the possible NCCC project that staff hoped to coordinate this year would be delayed until 2011 in response to the fact that the Carol College dorm is only available from June to August in a given year.

1) Items discussed in response to work on Powerline Unit:

- Minimal impacts to slopes and social trail that was used as a refueling and access route for forest thinning contractor. The social trail should be monitored and considered for reconstructing trail into a more sustainable trail route or should be reclaimed with debris (brush, slash, sod plugs etc...) to promote seed growth.

- Evaluate the costs and ecological benefits of leaving trees on the ground at 6 tons per acre (spacing of approximately 40 feet between retained logs). Research suggests that trees can provide ecological benefits when placed in thinned areas at a density of 3-13 tons per acre (20 - 30 foot spacing). HOLMAC indicated that they would like to see log lengths varied and possibly some branches left on the upward side of the log for a more natural appearance.
- Briefly discussed possibly strategy related to the completion of the next Mount Helena Project (DNRC Comp Grant Demonstration Forestry Project) that is located between the Powerline Trail unit and the prospect Shafts Trail. One of the possible changes will involve the retention of more large logs on a per acre basis to reduce the chip volume that will be generated in some of the heavy mortality zones. Also, the possibility of combining an NCCC work crew with a professional contractor was discussed as a possible answer to keeping the upcoming project within budget.

Items not discussed due to the untimely rain storm.

1. Archery Range Update
2. Small Projects Update
3. Upcoming Weed Pull – June 21st, 5:30 – 7:30 followed by BBQ Davis Gulch “Old Shooting Range Parking Lot”,